

NEWS.

THE *Fern Bulletin* for January contains an excellent portrait of Professor L. M. Underwood.

WE REGRET to learn of the death of Dr. S. J. Korshinsky, of St. Petersburg, at the age of 40. He had done some excellent work, especially in problems concerned with the vegetation of the steppes.

DR. M. RACIBORSKI, formerly professor of botany at the University of Cracow, and lately of Buitenzorg, has been appointed professor of botany and director of the botanical garden in the Dublany Agricultural Academy at Lemberg.

ONE GARDEN scholarship is to be awarded by Director Wm. Trelease, of the Missouri Botanical Garden, before April 1 next. Applications must be in his hands before March 1, and examinations will be held at the garden on March 5.

THE FRENCH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES has awarded the Desmazières prize to Abbé Hue for his "Mémoire sur une Classification des lichens fondée sur leur anatomie," and the Montaigne prize to M. J. Heribaud for his "Les Muscinées d'Auvergne."

THE VIENNA Academy of Sciences intends to send an expedition in 1901 to study the flora of Brazil. Professor Dr. Richard von Wettstein, director of the botanical garden of the University, and Dr. Victor Schiffner of Prague, will accompany the party.

THE BOTANICAL DEPARTMENT of the British Museum has purchased the Bescherelle herbarium of mosses and liverworts, the collection containing 14,800 specimens of the former, and 3500 of the latter. The herbarium is very rich in types and authentic specimens.

THROUGH the liberality of T. M. Baird, Jr., Esq., of Victoria, B. C., a tract of land on the coast of Vancouver island, opposite Cape Flattery, has been presented for a seaside botanical station of the University of Minnesota. The erection of a group of log buildings has been begun and a party of thirty or more botanists has been organized to open the work of the station next June.

AT A MEETING of the Botanical Section of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, held December 10, 1900, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: *Director*, THOMAS MEEHAN; *Vice director*, GEORGE M. BERINGER; *Treasurer and Conservator*, STEWARDSON BROWN; *Recorder*,

JOHN W. HARSHBERGER; *Executive Committee*, GEORGE M. BERINGER, THOMAS MEEHAN, STEWARDSON BROWN, JAMES D. CRAWFORD, IDA A. KELLER.

THE REPORT of the committee of the Society for Plant Morphology and Physiology on securing better reviews of botanical literature was presented at the recent meeting of the society at Baltimore. The results secured are of the greatest interest to all botanists. After correspondence with the editor and publisher of the *Botanisches Centralblatt*, a modification of this journal will be effected with the first number of the present year, and these changes are officially announced in the last number for 1900. Hereafter the *Centralblatt* proper will contain only reviews and the list of new literature, while the *Beihefte* will contain only original articles, and will appear as heretofore at irregular intervals. These may be subscribed for separately; the price and size of the former will remain as at present, *M* 28 per year. A committee of three from the society, Drs. Farlow, MacDougal, and Ganong, together with one botanist from the central states and one from the Pacific coast, to be named later, will be asked to nominate American editors, who will cooperate with the German editors, Drs. Uhlworm and Kohl. Inasmuch as the editors of the *Centralblatt* have shown themselves so willing to take up the suggestions made by this committee it should now be a matter of pride, and it certainly is a matter of self-interest as well, for American botanists to give the fullest support, financial and scientific, to this bibliographic journal. It should remain unique and become as perfect in its notices of literature as it is possible to make it. Separates, not titles merely, should still be sent to Dr. Uhlworm, Cassel.

THE following action was taken by the employés of the Department of Agriculture in reference to the death of Mr. Thomas A. Williams: It is with feelings of profound sorrow and regret that we, the employés of the Department of Agriculture, learn that death has removed from among us our beloved companion and coworker, Thomas A. Williams, a classmate and intimate associate of many of our number. His broad knowledge of scientific matters, his keen appreciation of nature, his kind and forbearing disposition have endeared him to all. He was known to his associates as an indefatigable worker and investigator.

Resolved, That in the death of Professor Thomas A. Williams, science and agriculture have suffered a great loss, and we, his associates, a dear friend, whose self-forgetfulness in his kindly consideration for the feelings of others and uniform cheerfulness, often under conditions of severe physical suffering, revealed a lovable character of the highest Christian type. The loss to the Division of Agrostology is irreparable. In the performance of his official duties he had proved himself an excellent executive and an organizer of unusual merit, and his relations with his associates in office were always such

as to command the highest esteem and respect. He never shirked a duty, and however difficult the undertaking the work performed by him was done most creditably. His loss will be felt most keenly by his associates in the division, and his memory will remain with them as one whose exemplary life and steadfastness of purpose they should strive to emulate.

Resolved, Further, that we tender to his bereaved family our heartfelt sympathy in their great loss and invoke for them the blessing of the Heavenly Father, who alone can heal the broken heart and give lasting comfort.

Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased and to the various daily and scientific journals.—Committee on Resolutions for the Department of Agriculture.

FROM ADVANCE sheets of the twelfth annual report of the director of the Missouri Botanical Garden we make the following extracts:

The garden has been maintained through the past year on about the same lines as for some years past. Though the revenue has not yet been increased through sales of real estate, the power to make such sales now makes it possible to spend on the garden the entire current revenue, which adds annually ten or fifteen thousand dollars to the available funds. The extensions which have been contemplated for some years past have now been begun. The improvements made this year consist in the grading of some twenty acres of land, and in planting the border about this tract. Two rather large ponds, connected by a meandering brook, were made, and the ground was given an easy fall from the streets to these bodies of water. All of the material used in this border plantation is representative of North American plants, and it is proposed to plant on this tract a collection of 181 arborescent, 269 fruticose, and some 1400 herbaceous species, representative of the North American flora, and arranged essentially in the familiar sequence of families of the "Genera Plantarum" of Bentham and Hooker. The garden now contains 9194 species and varieties of plants, of which 5547 are annuals or hardy perennials, and 3647 are cultivated under glass. A further extension of the plant houses has been made by the erection of a tower at the northwestern corner of the system, in which small but representative collections of succulents and of acacias and acacia-like plants have been planted out in a natural manner. The material incorporated in the herbarium during the year comprises 8415 sheets of specimens. The additions to the library in 1900 include 573 books and 31 pamphlets purchased, and 311 books and 456 pamphlets presented or sent in exchange for garden publications. Of serial publications the garden now receives 1117, all but 66 by exchange. The garden has materially assisted the botanical work in the public schools by supplying material. Several pieces of research work are about ready for publication.